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Part V Regional cooperation for development

Section 20
Economic and social development in Western Asia
(Programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001)

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* The present document contains section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The complete proposed programme budget will subsequently be issued in final printed form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/52/6/Rev.1).

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Section 20
Economic and social development in Western Asia
(Programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001)

Overview

20.1 The programme is under the responsibility of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

20.2 The programme of work generally aims at enhancing the sustainable development of ESCWA member States and promoting regional cooperation and policy coordination among them, while highlighting the linkages among the economic, social, cultural, technological and environmental dimensions of development.

20.3 During the biennium 1998-1999, the focus of the activities will be: (a) to monitor and survey economic and social development trends of the member States; (b) to enhance economic cooperation among member States through harmonization of the relevant norms, standards and legislative instruments, thus allowing member States to deal with economic reform and liberalization policies as they impact various development sectors; (d) to enhance coordination and harmonization of norms and standards and legislative instruments among member States in the area of social development through the implementation of the recommendations of global conferences; (e) to enhance cooperation among member States in the management of natural resources and environment through harmonization of the relevant norms, standards and legislative instruments; and (f) to assist member States in human and institutional capacity-building.

20.4 Salient features of the proposed programme of work can be summarized as follows:

(a) Improvement of the multidisciplinary/inter-divisional approach to programme formulation and implementation that was introduced in the 1994-1995 programme of work and further developed in the 1996-1997 programme of work;

(b) Strengthening the relations between the ESCWA secretariat and member States through the Consultative Committee of Ambassadors, the four subsidiary intergovernmental committees, the Commission and bilateral consultations;

(c) Improvement of the documentation and the substantive servicing of the biennial sessions of the Commission and the sessions of its four subsidiary intergovernmental bodies;

(d) Improvement of coordination between ESCWA and the other United Nations bodies through the Regional Inter-agency Coordination Group, which was established during the biennium 1994-1995;

(e) Assistance to member States in the coordination of the implementation of recommendations of global conferences, in particular those dealing with environment, population, social development, women, human settlements and food;

(f) Promotion of cooperation among member States in harmonization of norms, standards and legislative instruments as they relate to various sectors of activity;

(g) Continuation of the assessment, initiated in the biennium 1996-1997, of the impact of the peace process on various sectors, as well as assessment of the Middle East/North Africa economic conferences, the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the World Trade Organization guidelines and regulations;

(h) Consolidation of regional efforts in the field of socio-economic statistics through harmonization of terminology and standardization of data collection methodology.

20.5 The programme of work was devised with a thematic framework that is relevant to each of the five subprogrammes of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1). Thus, activities to be implemented within this framework will be carried out with more focus and greater depth and in a manner that will allow the most cost-effective and productive use of resources. The programme of work is also based on the assumption that ESCWA will be operating at its permanent headquarters at Beirut as of September 1997. Striving continuously to improve the implementation of its programme of work through the thematic approach, while minimizing to the maximum extent possible the disruption resulting from the move to Beirut, ESCWA undertook in the biennium 1996-1997 an extensive review of its operations and of its requirements in the new headquarters, and started the implementation in 1997 of the outcome of the review. The results have been, among other things, a restructuring of the general support services organizational unit, a sizeable reduction of the number of posts in the General Service category, in particular under programme support, and redeployment or reduction of a number of posts in the Professional category through further consolidation and/or revision of functions.

20.6 The overall level of resources proposed for ESCWA would amount to $34,681,300, including a growth before recosting of $538,000 (or 1.5 per cent). This growth represents the combined effect of (a) the redeployment to ESCWA of the resources attached to the UNCTAD/ESCWA Joint Unit on Transnational Corporations (1 P-5 and 1 Local level post and non-post resources), which were previously allocated to UNCTAD; (b) the reclassification of 1 P-4 post to the P-5 level; (c) the application of new standardized vacancy rates; (d) the proposed abolition of 3 posts in the Professional category and above (1 D-1, 1 P-4 and 1 P-2) and 26 Local level posts; and (e) a series of increases and decreases in other non-post objects of expenditure.

20.7 The estimated amount of $15,023,500 for recosting represents the difference in the standard costs between Amman 1996-1997 rates and Beirut 1998-1999 rates. Thus the increase reflects both the effect of inflation over time and the cost differences arising as a result of the higher cost of operating at the new headquarters. In large part this difference is due to differences in post adjustment and Local level salary scales between the two duty stations. Table 20.2 shows that the main components of recosting relate to expenditure under posts and general operating expenses (in particular utilities and maintenance of premises).

20.8 The estimated percentage distribution of the total resources for ESCWA in 1998-1999 would be as follows:

		Regular budget	*Extra-budgetary*
		(percentage)	
A.	Policy-making organs	0.2	–
B.	Executive direction and management	6.2	–
C.	Programme of work	46.3	100.0
D.	Programme support	47.3	–
	Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

20.9 Within the programme of work, the approximate percentage distribution of resources among subprogrammes would be as follows:

	Regular budget	*Extra-budgetary*
	(percentage)	
Subprogramme 1		
Management of natural resources and environment	18.0	—
Subprogramme 2		
Improvement of the quality of life	25.2	60.1
Subprogramme 3		
Economic development and global changes	17.8	—
Subprogramme 4		
Coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations for sectoral development	26.3	—
Subprogramme 5		
Development coordination and harmonization of statistics and information	12.7	39.9
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

Table 20.1 Summary of requirements by component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component		*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
				Amount	*Percentage*			
A.	Policy-making organs	43.4	95.1	—	—	95.1	9.7	104.8
B.	Executive direction and management	2 605.8	2 612.0	(522.5)	(20.0)	2 089.5	963.9	3 053.4
C.	Programme of work	12 270.7	15 053.0	1 053.1	6.9	16 106.1	6 927.8	23 033.9
D.	Programme support	15 226.7	16 383.2	7.4	—	16 390.6	7 122.1	23 512.7
	Total	**30 146.6**	**34 143.3**	**538.0**	**1.5**	**34 681.3**	**15 023.5**	**49 704.8**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Source of funds	1998-1999 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
		(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	
		Special Account for Programme	
101.8	104.6	Support (ESCWA)	16.3
46.3	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
280.9	252.6	UNDP	117.0
698.4	1 278.1	UNFPA	15.0
1.0	–	UNESCO	–
11.8	–	UNIFEM	–
–	20.0	UNICEF	–
217.0	–	UNEP	–
–	4.5	ESCWA Trust Fund	–
137.1	310.9	Multilateral sources	80.0
463.7	550.8	Bilateral sources	146.0
1 958.0	**2 521.5**	**Total**	**374.3**
32 104.6	**36 664.8**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**50 079.1**

Table 20.2 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	25 377.4	27 217.0	(26.7)	–	27 190.3	14 255.8	41 446.1
Other staff costs	164.8	202.1	253.9	125.6	456.0	46.5	502.5
Consultants and experts	436.9	794.0	133.4	16.8	927.4	94.9	1 022.3
Travel	440.9	530.3	(80.4)	(15.1)	449.9	46.1	496.0
Contractual services	185.7	489.4	(101.2)	(20.6)	388.2	39.5	427.7
General operating expenses	2 598.8	3 428.4	359.0	10.4	3 787.4	388.6	4 176.0
Hospitality	8.8	15.9	–	–	15.9	1.6	17.5
Supplies and materials	463.5	600.3	–	–	600.3	61.4	661.7
Furniture and equipment	469.8	865.9	–	–	865.9	89.1	955.0
Total	**30 146.6**	**34 143.3**	**538.0**	**1.5**	**34 681.3**	**15 023.5**	**49 704.8**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Object of expenditure*	*1998-1999 estimates*
784.8	1 349.5	Posts	—
23.2	11.0	Other staff costs	—
450.9	313.0	Consultants and experts	334.3
130.9	133.1	Travel	40.0
7.2	89.9	Contractual services	—
202.2	53.5	General operating expenses	—
3.3	10.4	Supplies and materials	—
8.8	98.5	Furniture and equipment	—
329.4	445.7	Grants and contributions	—
17.3	17.3	Other	—
1 958.0	**2 521.5**	**Total**	**374.3**
32 104.6	**36 664.8**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**50 079.1**

Table 20.3 Post requirements

Organizational unit: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
USG	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	8	7	—	—	—	—	8	7
P-5	19	21	—	—	5	1	24	22
P-4/3	60	58	—	—	2	—	62	58
P-2/1	16	15	—	—	3	—	19	15
Total	**105**	**103**	**—**	**—**	**10**	**1**	**115**	**104**
Other categories								
Local level	185	160	—	—	31	—	216	160
Field Service	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Total	**188**	**163**	**—**	**—**	**31**	**—**	**219**	**163**
Grand total	**293**	**266**	**—**	**—**	**41**	**1**	**334**	**267**

A. Policy-making organs

Table 20.4 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Other staff costs	43.4	95.1	—	—	95.1	9.7	104.8
Total	**43.4**	**95.1**	**—**	**—**	**95.1**	**9.7**	**104.8**

20.10 The 13-member Commission reports to the Economic and Social Council and holds consecutively regular biennial ministerial sessions and sessions of the Technical Committee, the main subsidiary body of the Commission, normally at its headquarters. The Technical Committee addresses programmatic, policy and coordination issues. The Commission also established four specialized subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, which hold biennial sessions, namely, the Statistics Committee, the Committee on Social Development, the Committee on Energy and the Committee on Water Resources. These specialized subsidiary bodies act as a forum for coordination of programmatic and policy issues among expert representatives of member States and for interaction on technical matters with relevant staff of the ESCWA secretariat. The ESCWA secretariat provides support to the Commission, the Technical Committee and the four specialized bodies, as well as to programmed sector-specific intergovernmental meetings. In 1998-1999, two such meetings will be convened: the Arab conference on follow-up to global conferences, which will involve integrated follow-up to four global conferences: the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); and an intergovernmental meeting on transport facilitation across borders through harmonization of norms, standards and related conventions.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Other staff costs

20.11 The estimated requirements of $95,100 relate to the provision of interpretation, translation, administrative, secretarial and other relevant services to one session each of the Commission, its Technical Committee, the four specialized subsidiary bodies and the two intergovernmental meetings referred to above.

B. Executive direction and management

Table 20.5 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	2 463.2	2 507.0	(554.8)	(22.1)	1 952.2	949.9	2 902.1
Consultants and experts	34.6	—	22.3	—	22.3	2.2	24.5
Travel	108.0	105.0	10.0	9.5	115.0	11.8	126.8
Total	**2 605.8**	**2 612.0**	**(522.5)**	**(20.0)**	**2 089.5**	**963.9**	**3 053.4**

Table 20.6 **Post requirements**

Programme: Executive direction and management

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
USG	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
ASG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D-2	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
D-1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
P-5	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	2
P-4/3	3	2	—	—	—	—	3	2
P-2/1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	**8**	**7**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**8**	**7**
Other categories								
Local level	13	9	—	—	—	—	13	9
Total	**13**	**9**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**13**	**9**
Grand total	**21**	**16**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**21**	**16**

20.12 The Office of the Executive Secretary includes the Programme Planning and Coordination Unit, the secretariat of the Commission and Information Services. The Executive Secretary provides overall direction and management of the activities of the Commission. The Office of the Executive Secretary leads the other organizational units of the ESCWA secretariat in the planning and preparation of medium-term plans and programme budgets; monitors and evaluates the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work; monitors the effectiveness of the ESCWA multidisciplinary task forces; follows up on arrangements for cooperation with national, regional and international organizations; maintains contact with ESCWA member States, directly or through the Consultative Committee of Ambassadors, the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council, the Regional Commissions New York Office and other United Nations, international and regional organizations, as required; follows up on the implementation of resolutions and decisions of the Commission; and administers the public information services of ESCWA in conjunction with the Department of Public Information at Headquarters. In addition, the Office of the Executive Secretary promotes, through the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Group, inter-agency

cooperation on issues and activities of a regional nature in the economic and social fields and oversees and coordinates regional preparatory and follow-up activities for global conferences of the United Nations.

20.13 The Office of the Executive Secretary also convenes meetings of eminent persons and governmental experts, as deemed appropriate, to review the Commission's role, identify changing priorities, analyse the trends of the programmes and assess reform activities. It calls upon expertise, as necessary, to provide it with specialized assistance.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

20.14 The estimated requirements of $1,952,200, including a reduction of $554,800, relate to the posts as indicated in table 20.6 above. These requirements reflect the proposed abolition of one D-1, one P-4 and four Local level posts and the inward redeployment to executive direction and management of one P-5 post from programme support. The D-1 and P-4 posts proposed to be abolished are those of the Secretary of the Commission and of the Special Assistant to the Executive Secretary, respectively. It is proposed to merge these two functions and to have them performed at the P-5 level through the post redeployed from programme support. The decrease of $554,800 represents the combined effect of the redeployment and abolition of these posts and the application of new standardized vacancy rates.

Consultants and experts

20.15 The estimated requirements of $22,300 would cover the cost of consultants fees and travel to provide external expertise in areas not falling within individual subprogrammes, as may be requested by the Commission or at the initiative of the Executive Secretary.

Travel

20.16 The estimated requirements of $115,000, reflecting an increase of $10,000, relate to the travel of the Executive Secretary, the Deputy Executive Secretary and their immediate staff for consultations with Governments, regional commissions and specialized agencies, and attendance at meetings within and outside the region.

C. Programme of Work

Table 20.7 **Summary of requirements by programme**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Programme	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
1. Management of natural resources and environment	1 725.7	2 727.9	181.7	6.6	2 909.6	1 237.7	4 147.3
2. Improvement of the quality of life	2 113.6	3 792.7	263.4	6.9	4 056.1	1 760.2	5 816.3
3. Economic development and global changes	5 267.7	2 409.2	465.9	19.3	2 875.1	1 216.0	4 091.1
4. Coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations for sectoral development	2 055.7	4 286.3	(21.3)	(0.4)	4 265.0	1 782.5	6 047.5
5. Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information	1 108.0	1 836.9	163.4	8.8	2 000.3	931.4	2 931.7
Total	**12 270.7**	**15 053.0**	**1 053.1**	**6.9**	**16 106.1**	**6 927.8**	**23 033.9**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Source of funds	1998-1999 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
39.7	23.7	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	16.3
47.2	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
		(c) Operational projects	
280.9	252.6	UNDP	117.0
698.4	1 278.1	UNFPA	15.0
1.0	—	UNESCO	—
11.8	—	UNIFEM	—
—	20.0	UNICEF	—
217.0	—	UNEP	—
—	4.5	ESCWA Trust Fund	—
137.1	310.9	Multilateral sources	80.0
463.7	550.8	Bilateral sources	146.0
1 896.8	**2 440.6**		**374.3**
14 167.5	**17 493.6**		**23 408.2**

Subprogramme 1
Management of natural resources and environment

Table 20.8 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	1 674.3	2 582.1	118.5	4.5	2 700.6	1 216.3	3 916.9
Consultants and experts	28.7	92.0	63.2	68.6	155.2	15.9	171.1
Travel	22.7	53.8	—	—	53.8	5.5	59.3
Total	**1 725.7**	**2 727.9**	**181.7**	**6.6**	**2 909.6**	**1 237.7**	**4 147.3**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Source of funds	1998-1999 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
—	—	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
38.7	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
		(c) Operational projects	
217.0	—	UNEP	—
—	4.5	ESCWA Trust Fund	—
29.9	188.6	Bilateral sources	—
285.6	**193.1**	**Total**	**—**
2 011.3	**2 921.0**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**4 147.3**

Table 20.9 **Post requirements**

Programme: Management of natural resources and environment

Established posts		Temporary posts					
Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999
Professional category and above							
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	2	2	—	—	1	1	3	3
P-4/3	7	7	—	—	—	—	7	7
P-2/1	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total	**12**	**12**	**—**	**—**	**1**	**1**	**13**	**13**
Other categories								
Local level	8	7	—	—	—	—	8	7
Total	**8**	**7**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**8**	**7**
Grand total	**20**	**19**	**—**	**—**	**1**	**1**	**21**	**20**

20.17 This subprogramme will be implemented by the Energy, Natural Resources and Environment Division. It will promote regional cooperation in the management of water resources and energy and will follow up the implementation of Agenda 21.

20.18 Through studies, surveys, meetings, technical assistance, human and institutional capacity-building, some of which will be of a multidisciplinary nature, the subprogramme will act as a catalyst to promote among member States the harmonization of environmental standards in the energy and water sectors. It will also assess shared water resources, identify modalities for cooperation on intraregional electric power grids, deal with the needs of rural areas in terms of non-conventional energy resources and freshwater and follow up on the implementation of Agenda 21, especially those chapters on integration of land and water resources management.

Activities

20.19 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Second session of the Committee on Energy; and second session of the Committee on Water Resources;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation. Two reports to the Commission, one on the second session of the Committee on Energy and one on the second session of the Committee on Water Resources; two reports each to the Committee on Water Resources and the Committee on Energy;

(iii) Ad hoc expert groups. Five expert group meetings on privatization of the electric power sector; updating the assessment of water resources in ESCWA member States; adequacy of environmental legislation and promotion of enforcement mechanisms; harmonization of environmental standards in the energy sector of ESCWA member States; and harmonization of environmental standards in the water sector of ESCWA member States;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

Thirteen non-recurrent publications on updating the assessment of water resources in ESCWA member countries; progress achieved in the implementation of chapter 18 of Agenda 21, with emphasis on water for sustainable agricultural production: case studies; harmonization of environmental standards in the water sector of ESCWA member States; assessment of privatization of power generation in selected ESCWA countries; development of freshwater resources in the rural areas using non-conventional techniques; harmonization of environmental standards in the energy sector of ESCWA member States; current water policies and practices in selected ESCWA countries; proceedings of the expert group meeting on harmonization of environmental standards in the energy sector of ESCWA member States; proceedings of the expert group meeting on privatization of the electric power sector; promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, with particular emphasis on rural and remote areas; proceedings of the expert group meeting on harmonization of environmental standards in the water sector of ESCWA member States; assessment of the adequacy of environmental legislation and promotion of enforcement mechanisms; proceedings of the expert group meeting on adequacy of environmental legislation and promotion of enforcement mechanisms; and modalities of cooperation with respect to the interconnection of the electric power grids among ESCWA countries;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Cooperation with LAS and its related organizations on the establishment of a regional electric power grid, the harmonization of standards in the energy sector of ESCWA member States, updating the assessment of water resources, water use for sustainable agricultural production, the implementation of the regional priorities of Agenda 21, and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly in 1997; cooperation with EU on privatization of the electric power sector and the establishment of a regional electric power grid; cooperation with OIC, including the Islamic Development Bank, on updating the assessment of water resources, water use for sustainable agricultural production, the implementation of the regional priorities of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly in 1997; cooperation with the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment on the implementation of the regional priorities of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly in 1997; substantive contributions to the annual meetings of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region;

(ii) Coordination with ECA, ECE and the Department for Development Support and Management Services of the Secretariat on the establishment of a regional electric power grid in ESCWA member States; cooperation with the World Bank in the area of privatization of the electric power sector and on issues pertaining to the development of water resources in ESCWA member States; coordination with the WHO/Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities/Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, WMO, UNEP and FAO on issues

pertaining to the development of water resources in ESCWA countries; substantive contribution to the annual meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and to the biennial session of the Committee on Natural Resources, including a paper on water issues in ESCWA member countries.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

20.20 The resource requirements of $2,700,600, including a growth of $118,500 would cover 12 posts in the Professional category and above and 7 Local level posts as indicated in table 20.9 above. These requirements reflect the proposed abolition of one Local level post no longer required as a result of improvements in working methods. The growth of $118,500 represents the combined effect of the abolition of this post and the application of new standardized vacancy rates.

Consultants and experts

20.21 The estimated requirements of $155,200, reflecting a growth of $63,200, include the following: (a) $56,000 (representing a decrease of $7,900) for consultants to provide expertise not available in the secretariat for the preparation of publications and studies dealing with assessment of water resources, use of water for sustainable agricultural production in selected countries, use of renewable sources of energy, including desalinization, in the countries of the region to produce fresh water resources, a survey of environmental legislation, provision of technical input for the promotion of enforcement mechanisms, etc.; (b) $99,200 (representing an increase of $71,100) for convening the five expert group meetings listed in paragraph 20.19 (a) (iii) above.

Travel

20.22 The estimated requirements of $53,800, at the maintenance level, relate to travel of staff required for the preparation of publications and studies. This involves consultations with officials of the countries of the region and collection of information on water resources, privatization of power generation, environmental norms and practices, and new and renewable sources of energy, with particular emphasis on rural and remote areas, as well as for consultations with regional organizations such as LAS, EU, OIC and the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region and cooperation/coordination with ECA, ECE, UNEP, and the DPCSD and the DDSMS of the Secretariat.

Subprogramme 2
Improvement of the quality of life

Table 20.10 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	1 995.4	3 585.7	198.2	5.5	3 783.9	1 732.0	5 515.9
Consultants and experts	72.0	118.0	81.7	69.2	199.7	20.7	220.4
Travel	46.2	89.0	(16.5)	(18.5)	72.5	7.5	80.0
Total	**2 113.6**	**3 792.7**	**263.4**	**6.9**	**4 056.1**	**1 760.2**	**5 816.3**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Source of funds	1998-1999 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
31.7	11.5	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
4.0	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
		(c) Operational projects	
186.7	83.5	UNDP	80.0
698.4	1 278.1	UNFPA	15.0
1.0	—	UNESCO	—
11.8	—	UNIFEM	—
70.8	27.0	Other multilateral sources	—
139.4	118.8	Bilateral sources	130.0
1 143.8	**1 518.9**	**Total**	**225.0**
3 257.4	**5 311.6**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**6 041.3**

Table 20.11 **Post requirements**

Programme: Improvement of the quality of life

Established posts		Temporary posts					
Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999
Professional category and above							
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	4	4	—	—	4	—	8	4
P-4/3	8	8	—	—	1	—	9	8
P-2/1	4	4	—	—	2	—	6	4
Total	**17**	**17**	**—**	**—**	**7**	**—**	**24**	**17**
Other categories								
Local level	12	11	—	—	11	—	23	11
Total	**12**	**11**	**—**	**—**	**11**	**—**	**23**	**11**
Grand total	**29**	**28**	**—**	**—**	**18**	**—**	**47**	**28**

20.23 This subprogramme will be implemented by the Social Development Issues and Policies Division. Its objective is to promote regional cooperation in harmonizing social policies and setting standards and regulations for improving the quality life. Support will be provided to member States to implement in an integrated approach the recommendations of global conferences such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in addition to the relevant recommendations of Agenda 21.

20.24 The focus of the activities, which include multidisciplinary studies, surveys, meetings and technical assistance, will be on human and institutional capacity-building, eradication of poverty, governance and participation and the role of non-governmental organizations. In addition, the database on population, social development, gender and human settlements policies that was developed during the biennium 1996-1997 will be further refined and updated.

Activities

20.25 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Second session of the Committee on Social Development and the Arab conference on integrated follow up to global conferences;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation. Report on the second session of the Committee on Social Development; two reports to the Economic and Social Council on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan; four reports to the Arab conference on integrated follow up to global conferences; five reports to the Committee on Social Development;

(iii) Ad hoc expert group meetings. Four regional preparatory meetings for the Arab conference on integrated follow up to global conferences: follow up to the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II); and two expert group meetings on migration and population policies in ESCWA member countries and urban management: follow up on national strategies in ESCWA member States;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Nine recurrent publications. News bulletin on human settlements in the Arab world (annual); *Population Bulletin* (Nos. 46 and 47); demographic and related socio-economic data sheets; studies on Arab women and development series: gender and the role of non-governmental organizations: case study of West Bank and Gaza before and after the peace accords; human settlements in the Arab world; human settlements data sheets;

(ii) Sixteen non-recurrent publications. Manifestations of and approaches to alleviating poverty in Western Asia: the role of income-generating activities in eradicating poverty and improving the standard of living in local communities; developmental role of the informal sector in community development: the cases of Egypt and the Republic of Yemen; the role of non-governmental organizations in local community development; critical assessment of local community development experiences in the Arab world; national population policies in ESCWA member countries; proceedings of the expert group meeting on eradicating poverty in Western Asia; urban governance and participation: problems and prospects; urban environmental changes and sustainable development in ESCWA member countries; towards a strategy for sustainable human development in the Arab world; social impact of structural adjustment, with special emphasis on unemployment; manifestations of and approaches to alleviating poverty in Western Asia: poverty and youth; operational microcredit lending facilities to poor women in rural and urban areas; urban settlements and poverty; the role of non-governmental organizations in integrated follow-up to global conferences; housing policy issues in ESCWA member States; and a manual on community development services;

(iii) Technical material (databases, software, etc.). Maintenance and development of five databases: integrated information system on population policies in ESCWA countries; population estimates and projections database; social policies and measures in the areas of human development in selected ESCWA countries, gender and the family, and human settlements;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Cooperation with the League of Arab States and its related agencies on follow-up activities related to global conferences and on other social issues; the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations on follow-up activities related to the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as other social and family issues; the Arab Women's Centre for Training and Research on follow-up activities related to the Fourth World Conference on Women and other family issues; the Committee on

Environment and Development in the Arab Region and Europe and the Regional Bureau of the Urban Management Programme on follow-up activities related to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(ii) Cooperation with non-governmental organizations in ESCWA countries on follow-up activities related to the Fourth World Conference on Women and on gender issues;

(iii) Cooperation and coordination, as appropriate, with UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO, UNDP, UNRISD, ILO, INSTRAW, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Population Division; the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and UNEP on issues relevant to the programme of work under the subprogramme. Participation in the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Human Settlements;

(d) *Technical cooperation (RB/XB)*

(i) Group training. Training workshop on population policies and sustainable development in ESCWA countries; ESCWA Population Policies Information System (PPIS) in the Arab world;

(ii) Fields projects. Community development services.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

20.26 The resource requirements of $3,783,900, reflecting a growth of $198,200, relate to 17 posts in the Professional category and above and 11 Local level posts, as indicated in table 20.11 above. They include the abolition of one Local level post no longer required as a result of improvements in working methods. The growth of $198,200 represents the combined effect of the abolition of this post and the application of new standardized vacancy rates.

Consultants and experts

20.27 The estimated requirements of $199,700, reflecting a growth of $81,700, would cover the cost of consultants fees and travel ($56,000, including a decrease of $2,200) and the cost of the expert group meetings listed in paragraph 20.25 (a) (iii) above ($143,700, including an increase of $83,900). The consultants would provide expertise on national experiences in the implementation of the programme of actions adopted by global conferences, a participatory approach to urban governance, human development, the social impact of structural adjustment, poverty alleviation, operational microcredit lending facilities to poor women in rural and urban areas; etc.

Travel

20.28 The estimated requirements of $72,500, reflecting a decrease of $16,500, relate to travel of staff for consultations with Governments, collection of data and participation at meetings of United Nations bodies and regional meetings of relevance to the programme of work.

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and global changes

Table 20.12 Summary by object of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 appropriations	Resource growth		Total before recosting	Recosting	1998-1999 estimates
			Amount	Percentage			
Posts	4 954.0	2 258.6	465.5	20.6	2 724.1	1 200.6	3 924.7
Consultants and experts	183.7	120.1	(2.6)	(2.1)	117.5	12.1	129.6
Travel	130.0	30.5	3.0	9.8	33.5	3.3	36.8
Total	**5 267.7**	**2 409.2**	**465.9**	**19.3**	**2 875.1**	**1 216.0**	**4 091.1**

Table 20.13 Post requirements

Programme: Economic development and global changes

	Established posts		Temporary posts					
	Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	2	3	—	—	—	—	2	3
P-4/3	7	7	—	—	—	—	7	7
P-2/1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total	**11**	**12**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**11**	**12**
Other categories								
Local level	4	6	—	—	—	—	4	6
Total	**4**	**6**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**4**	**6**
Grand total	**15**	**18**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**15**	**18**

20.29 This subprogramme will be implemented by the Social Development Issues and Policies Division. It will focus on supporting member States in implementing economic reform policies, financial management, privatization and deregulation measures so that they can participate effectively in the various economic arrangements.

20.30 Through studies, surveys, technical assistance, human and institutional capacity-building, the subprogramme will continue to follow up on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. It will analyse macroeconomic issues that are related to global changes and that affect the growth and development of member States. The programme of work includes a number of activities of a continuing nature, such as the impact of privatization on the economy, the mobilization of resources for development with emphasis on foreign direct investment, the impact of the peace process on capital markets in the region, the trade-related environmental issues with focus on WTO guidelines and regulations and the impact of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership agreements. This subprogramme also includes new activities on the coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations in economic, trade and investment policies, including corporate tax systems.

Activities

20.31 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation. Two summary reports on the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in ESCWA member States* (1998 and 1999);

(iii) Ad hoc expert meetings on prospects for the development of trading companies in ESCWA countries; environment and trade-related issues: impact of WTO Environment Committee decisions on ESCWA member States; and the assessment of economic development in the ESCWA region during the 1990s and the region's priorities for the next decade (2000-2009);

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Five recurrent publications. *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region* (two and one special issue); preliminary overview of economic development in ESCWA member States in 1998; review and appraisal of the progress made by the Republic of Yemen in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

(ii) Thirteen non-recurrent publications on assessment of the privatization programmes in ESCWA member countries; role of foreign direct investment in economic development in ESCWA member States; trade efficiency in selected ESCWA member countries: a comprehensive study; Euro-Mediterranean partnership agreements: critical assessment; impact of WTO Environment Committee decisions on trade in ESCWA member States; proceedings of the expert group meeting on environment and trade-related issues; impact of WTO on intellectual property rights and services in selected ESCWA member States; comparative study on corporate tax in selected ESCWA member countries: prospect for harmonization; development of capital markets in ESCWA member countries in the light of the peace process; inflation in ESCWA member States: causes and effects; proceedings of the expert group meeting on prospects for the development of trading companies in ESCWA countries; appraisal of the Middle East and North Africa conferences; proceedings of the expert group meeting on assessment of economic developments in ESCWA member States during the 1990s and the region's priorities for the next decade (2000-2009);

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*. Cooperation with LAS and its related organizations on economic and trade and finance issues, and cooperation, coordination and liaison with UNCTAD, WTO, UNIDO and the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

20.32 The resource requirements of $2,724,100, including a growth of $465,500, would cover 12 posts in the Professional category and above and 6 Local level posts, as indicated in table 20.13 above. These staffing requirements reflect the redeployment to this subprogramme of one P-5 and one Local level post from UNCTAD and one Local level from programme support. The growth of $465,500 represents the combined effect of the redeployment of these posts and the application of new standardized vacancy rates.

Consultants and experts

20.33 The estimated requirements of $117,500, reflecting a decrease of $2,600, would cover the cost of consultants fees and travel ($41,800, including a reduction of $9,400) and the three expert group meetings listed in paragraph 20.31 (a) (iii) above ($75,700, including a growth of $6,800). The consultants would provide expertise not available in the secretariat in the preparation of reports and publications such as the special issue of the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region*, privatization programmes in the countries of the region, critical assessment of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership agreements and prospects for harmonization of corporate tax among the countries of the region.

Travel

20.34 The estimated requirements of $33,500 would provide for travel of staff for consultations with government and intergovernmental organizations officials, collection of data, participation at meetings and coordination with specialized agencies and United Nations offices and departments.

Subprogramme 4
Coordination of policies and harmonization of norms and regulations for sectoral development

Table 20.14 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	1 942.3	3 740.5	219.0	5.8	3 959.5	1 751.4	5 710.9
Consultants and experts	65.4	389.6	(154.4)	(39.6)	235.2	23.9	259.1
Travel	48.0	156.2	(85.9)	(54.9)	70.3	7.2	77.5
Total	**2 055.7**	**4 286.3**	**(21.3)**	**(0.4)**	**4 265.0**	**1 782.5**	**6 047.5**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*1998-1999 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
8.0	9.7	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
4.5	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
		(c) Operational projects	
86.0	7.2	UNDP	—
24.2	202.9	Multilateral sources	—
228.0	50.0	Bilateral sources	—
Total	**350.7**	**269.8**	**—**
Total (1) and (2)	**2 406.4**	**4 556.1**	**6 047.5**

Table 20.15 **Post requirements**

Programme: Coordination of policies and harmonization and norms and regulations for sectoral development

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
P-5	4	4	—	—	—	—	4	4
P-4/3	12	12	—	—	1	—	13	12
Total	**17**	**17**	**—**	**—**	**1**	**—**	**18**	**17**
Other categories								
Local level	11	9	—	—	5	—	16	9
Total	**11**	**9**	**—**	**—**	**5**	**—**	**16**	**9**
Grand total	**28**	**26**	**—**	**—**	**6**	**—**	**34**	**26**

20.35 This subprogramme will be implemented by the Sectoral Issues and Policies Division. It will provide support to member States in harmonizing their sectoral policies within the context of the emerging globalization trend. It will also provide support to national and regional institutions responsible for standards and norms setting.

20.36 Through studies, surveys, meetings, technical assistance, human and institutional capacity-building, some of which will be multidisciplinary in nature, the subprogramme will focus on harmonization of norms and standards in transport border crossing and for selected agricultural commodities. It will follow up the implementation of the relevant ISO standards and it will assess the impact of WTO on selected industries. It will further promote networking among national standardization institutions. Activities will also include assessment of the implementation of national policies in technology and agriculture and a series of bulletins dealing with industry, technology, transport and agriculture. Finally the issue of mainstreaming gender in non-traditional sectors will be addressed by this subprogramme.

20.37 The 1996-1997 programme of work assessed research and development institutions and established networking among them. During the biennium 1998-1999, the subprogramme will build on previous experience by assessing and establishing networking among regional and national standardization institutions.

Activities

20.38 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Parliamentary documentation. Report to the Commission on the intergovernmental meeting on transport facilitation across borders through harmonization of norms, standards and related conventions;

(ii) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental meeting on transport facilitation across borders through harmonization of norms, standards and related conventions, including submission of 10 background papers.

(iii) Seven ad hoc expert groups on science and technology policies in ESCWA member countries for the twenty-first century; policies for increasing the share of Arab fleets in the seaborne trade of ESCWA member States; GATT agreements and international trade in textiles and clothing;

national standardization bodies; planning and management in research and development and quality control institutions; application of the United Nations Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport (UNEDIFACT) in ESCWA member States; and harmonization of norms and standards for selected agricultural commodities;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Eight recurrent publications. Science and technology review in ESCWA countries, bulletin Nos. 1 and 2; transport review in ESCWA countries, bulletin Nos. 9 and 10; agriculture review in ESCWA countries, bulletin Nos. 20 and 21; industry review in ESCWA countries, bulletin Nos.1 and 2;

(ii) Nineteen non-recurrent publications on science and technology policies in ESCWA member countries for the twenty-first century; report on early implementation of ISO standard 14001, Environmental Management System, in selected industries in the developed world; capacity-building of national standardization institutions in view of the technical barriers of trade of WTO; production and quality assurance technologies in the agro-food industries in ESCWA member countries; environmentally sound technologies in selected sectors; harmonization of norms and standards for selected agricultural commodities with special focus on sorting, grading, packaging and labelling for export to the European market; harmonization of environmental standards in the transport sector in ESCWA member countries; small and medium-sized industrial enterprises in selected ESCWA member States: strategies, policies and support institutions; rural community development through strengthening institution building: two case studies; economic assessment of water use in agriculture for a selected ESCWA country; assessment of the Middle East and North Africa conferences in transport in ESCWA member countries; development of merchant fleets: policies for increasing the share of Arab fleets in the seaborne trade of ESCWA member States; national farm data handbook for Lebanon; formulation of export-oriented and marketing policies for selected agricultural products within the recent national, regional and global developments; the status, productivity and competitiveness of selected branches of agro-food industries in ESCWA member States; monitoring and assessment of the Middle East and North Africa conferences and the peace process on the industrial sector; application of electronic data interchange and UNEDIFACT in ESCWA member States; peace and regional economic cooperation in the agricultural sector of ESCWA countries; evaluation of agricultural policies in selected ESCWA member countries: case-study of Lebanon, policy matrix approach;

(iii) Booklets, pamphlets. Pamphlet on review of port legislation in ESCWA member countries;

(iv) Technical material (databases, software, etc.). Development of a spatial information system for selected sectors in ESCWA member countries;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Cooperation and coordination, as relevant, with LAS and its affiliated bodies, OIC, the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization, ISO, the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils, the World Customs Organization, the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas and the International Service for National Agricultural Research, on agricultural, industrial, transport, science and technology and standardization issues;

(ii) Coordination and cooperation with UNIDO, UNDP, UNIFEM, the UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Technology for the Arab States, the UNEP Regional Office for Western Asia, ILO, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNCTAD, ECE, ECA, ESCAP and FAO, as relevant, on agricultural and industrial development and development of science and technology capabilities; and participation in the annual meetings of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development;

(d) *Technical cooperation*. Advisory services to member States on transport planning and management; in the follow-up of relevant recommendations of the World Food Summit, including agricultural

policy analysis and training; development of capacity-building of small and medium-sized enterprises; and rehabilitation of the agricultural sector in the occupied territories.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

20.39 The resource requirements of $3,959,500, reflecting a growth of $219,000, would cover 17 posts in the Professional category and above and nine Local level posts, as indicated in table 20.15 above. They reflect the proposed abolition of two Local level posts no longer required as a result of improved methods of work. The growth of $219,000 represents the combined effect of the abolition of these posts and the application of new standardized vacancy rates.

Consultants and experts

20.40 The estimated requirements of $235,200, reflecting a decrease of $154,400, would cover the cost of consultants fees and travel ($78,000, including a reduction of $54,500) and the seven ad hoc expert group meetings listed in paragraph 20.38 (a) (iii) above ($157,200, including a reduction of $99,900). The consultants would provide expertise not available in the secretariat for the preparation of reports and studies under the programme of work as detailed in paragraph 20.38 (b).

Travel

20.41 The estimated requirements of $70,300, reflecting a decrease of $85,900, would provide for travel of staff for consultations with Governments and intergovernmental organizations, collection of data, participation at meetings and coordination with specialized agencies and United Nations offices and departments.

Subprogramme 5
Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information

Table 20.16 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	1 068.2	1 759.3	50.2	2.8	1 809.5	911.9	2 721.4
Consultants and experts	23.6	56.3	111.2	197.5	167.5	17.1	184.6
Travel	16.2	21.3	2.0	9.3	23.3	2.4	25.7
Total	**1 108.0**	**1 836.9**	**163.4**	**8.8**	**2 000.3**	**931.4**	**2 931.7**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	1996-1997 estimates	Source of funds	1998-1999 estimates
		(a) Services in support of:	
–	–	(i) United Nations organizations	–
–	2.5	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	16.3
–	–	(b) Substantive activities	–
		(c) Operational projects	
8.1	161.9	UNDP	37.0
–	20.0	UNICEF	–
42.1	81.0	Multilateral sources	80.0
66.4	193.4	Bilateral sources	16.0
116.6	**458.8**		**149.3**
1 224.6	**2 295.7**		**3 081.8**

Table 20.17 **Post requirements**

Programme: Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics and information

Established posts		Temporary posts					
Regular budget		Regular budget		Extrabudgetary resources		Total	
1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999	1996-1997	1998-1999
Professional category and above							
D-1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
P-5	1	2	–	–	–	–	1	2
P-4/3	4	3	–	–	–	–	4	3
P-2/1	1	1	–	–	–	–	1	1
Total	**7**	**7**	–	–	–	–	**7**	**7**
Other categories								
Local level	10	9	–	–	14	–	24	9
Total	**10**	**9**	–	–	**14**	–	**24**	**9**
Grand total	**17**	**16**	–	–	**14**	–	**31**	**16**

20.42 This subprogramme will be implemented by the Statistics Division. It will provide support to member States in harmonizing statistics and information. It will also contribute to the development of national statistical systems and to their harmonization on a regional and international basis. It will establish and develop regional statistical databases and information systems in line with the Commission's role as the major regional source of statistics and information.

20.43 Through data collection and processing, meetings, technical assistance and human and institutional capacity-building, the subprogramme will establish and expand sectoral databases in the area of economic and social statistics and embark on the preparatory phase of establishing a regional statistical information system. It will further promote international concepts, standards and classifications and will implement international systems and programmes, mainly the 1993 System of National Accounts and the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. It will also assist national statistical departments in the collection of specific indicators and statistics required for the follow-up to recent global conferences and provide assistance to member States in the area of gender statistics and the International Comparison Programme.

Activities

20.44 During the biennium the following activities will be undertaken:

(a) *Servicing of intergovernmental/expert bodies*

(i) Substantive servicing of meetings. Third session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee;

(ii) Parliamentary documentation. Five reports to the Statistical Committee as follows: summary of the report of the thirtieth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission; work accomplished between the second and the third sessions of ESCWA Statistical Committee; statistical implications of international conferences; report on activities of the regional household survey project; follow-up to the recommendations of the second session of ESCWA Statistical Committee; and report on the third session of the ESCWA Statistical Committee;

(iii) Four ad hoc expert group meetings on implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts; implications of the United Nations global conferences for social statistics; vital statistics and civil registration systems in ESCWA member States; and industrial surveys and censuses;

(b) *Other substantive activities*

(i) Twelve recurrent publications. *Statistical Newsletter*, Nos. 5-8; *Bulletin on Vital Statistics in ESCWA Member States*, Nos. 1 and 2; *Bulletin of National Accounts*, Nos. 18 and 19; *Bulletin of Industrial Statistics for the Arab Countries*, No. 4; *Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region*, Nos. 18 and 19; *External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region*, No. 9;

(ii) Non-recurrent publications. Study on women and men: statistical portrait of the Arab countries;

(iii) Technical material (databases, software, etc). Maintenance and development of eight databases on industrial statistics, national accounts, social statistics, labour force statistics, gender statistics and indicators, energy statistics, financial statistics, development of the ESCWA statistical information system and prices statistics;

(c) *International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison*

(i) Cooperation with the Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization on industrial statistics; LAS and its related organizations on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts; the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics on training in statistics; the Council of Arab Economic Unity on economic statistics; the Arab Women's Centre for Training and Research on gender statistics; the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations on household survey projects; the Arab Monetary Fund on financial statistics; and the Arab Planning Institute on statistics issues;

(ii) Cooperation and coordination with the Statistical Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the United Nations Economic and Social Information System (UNESIS) of the Department in the areas of national accounts, in particular on the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts in ESCWA countries; participation in the meetings of the Statistical Commission; coordination with the World Bank on the implementation of the International Comparison Programme in ESCWA member States; coordination with UNDP on statistical issues; and participation in the activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistics;

(d) *Technical cooperation*

(i) Advisory services. Backstopping of advisory services on national accounts and economic statistics, data-processing and household surveys and gender statistics;

(ii) Group training. Workshop on gender statistics.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

20.45 The resource requirements of $1,809,500, including a growth of $50,200, would cover seven posts in the Professional category and above and nine Local level posts, as indicated in table 20.17 above. They include the reclassification of one P-4 post to the P-5 level and the abolition of one Local level post. The reclassification would reflect the increased responsibilities of the post, which include formulation and supervision of the programme of work on national accounts, financial and price statistics. The growth of $50,200 represents the combined effect of the reclassification and abolition of posts and the application of new standardized vacancy rates.

Consultants and experts

20.46 The estimated requirements of $167,500, reflecting an increase of $111,200, would cover the cost of consultants fees and travel at maintenance level ($25,900) and the ad hoc expert groups meeting listed in paragraph 20.44 (a) (iii) above ($141,600, including an increase of $111,200). The consultants would provide expertise not available in the secretariat for the preparation of specialized reports and studies under the programme of work.

Travel

20.47 The estimated requirements of $23,300 would provide for travel of staff for consultations with government officials, collection of data, coordination with intergovernmental organizations within and outside the United Nations system and participation at meetings.

D. Programme support

Table 20.18 **Summary of requirements by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Object of expenditure	*1994-1995 expenditures*	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	11 280.0	10 783.8	(523.3)	(4.8)	10 260.5	6 493.7	16 754.2
Other staff costs	121.4	107.0	253.9	237.2	360.9	36.8	397.7
Consultants and experts	28.9	18.0	12.0	66.6	30.0	3.0	33.0
Travel	69.8	74.5	7.0	9.3	81.5	8.4	89.9
Contractual services	185.7	489.4	(101.2)	(20.6)	388.2	39.5	427.7
General operating expenses	2 598.8	3 428.4	359.0	10.4	3 787.4	388.6	4 176.0
Hospitality	8.8	15.9	—	—	15.9	1.6	17.5
Supplies and materials	463.5	600.3	—	—	600.3	61.4	661.7
Furniture and equipment	469.8	865.9	—	—	865.9	89.1	955.0
Total, regular budget	**15 226.7**	**16 383.2**	**7.4**	**—**	**16 390.6**	**7 122.1**	**23 512.7**

(2) *Extrabudgetary resources*

1994-1995 expenditures	*1996-1997 estimates*	*Source of funds*	*1998-1999 estimates*
		(a) Services in support of:	
—	—	(i) United Nations organizations	—
61.3	80.9	(ii) Extrabudgetary activities	—
—	—	(b) Substantive activities	—
—	—	(c) Operational projects	—
61.3	**80.9**	**Total**	**—**
15 288.0	**16 464.1**	**Total (1) and (2)**	**23 512.7**

Table 20.19 **Post requirements**

Programme: Programme support

	Established posts		*Temporary posts*					
	Regular budget		*Regular budget*		*Extrabudgetary resources*		*Total*	
	1996-1997	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*	*1996-1997*	*1998-1999*
Professional category and above								
D-1	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	2
P-5	5	4	—	—	—	—	5	4
P-4/3	19	19	—	—	1	—	20	19
P-2/1	7	6	—	—	—	—	7	6
Total	**33**	**31**	**—**	**—**	**1**	**—**	**34**	**31**
Other categories								
Local level	127	109	—	—	1	—	128	109
Field Service	3	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Total	**130**	**112**	**—**	**—**	**1**	**—**	**131**	**112**
Grand total	**163**	**143**	**—**	**—**	**2**	**—**	**165**	**143**

20.48 Programme support comprises the Technical Cooperation Division and the Administrative Services Division, including conference and library services, and information services.

Activities

20.49 During the biennium, the following categories of activity will be undertaken:

(a) *Conference and library services*. Activities will include the provision of conference services to meetings of policy-making bodies of ESCWA and other intergovernmentall and ad hoc expert group meetings; editing, translation and printing of documents and publications;; and library services;

(b) *Information services*. Services to be provided relate to ESCWA activities, as well as those undertaken jointly with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, and include the issuance of a fortnightly newsletter on ESCWA activities and periodic bulletins, press relleases and news dispatches concerning United Nations and ESCWA activities. Other activities include liaison with the news media, governmental and non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and other local redisseminators of information. A home page for ESCWA on Internet willl be established during the biennium;

(c) *Management of technical cooperation*. Services provided include coordiination, identification and formulation of project proposals, execution and monitoring of projects;; organization of training courses, seminars and fellowships; liaison with government and non-governmental officials; and publication of reports on missions by regional advisers. During the biennium, special efforts will be made to mobilize extrabudgetary resources through fund-raising activities and to increase the capacity of ESCWA to execute, alone or in collaboration with others, technical cooperation projects efficiently, as well as to carry out an expanded programme of training and fellowships;

(d) *Administrative services*. The Administrative Services Division will provide services in connection with human resources management, financial administration and resource planning, use of common services and electronic support to facilitate the implementation of the work programme.

Resource requirements (at current rates)

Posts

20.50 The resource requirements of $10,260,500, reflecting a decrease of $523,300, would cover 31 posts in the Professional category and above, 109 Local level and 3 Field Service posts, as shown in table 20.19 above. These requirements reflect the outward redeployment of one P-5 and one Local level post to executive direction and management and to subprogramme 3, respectively, and the proposed abolition of 18 (1 P-2 and 17 Local level) posts as a result of improved methods of work. The decrease of $523,300 represents the combined effect of the redeployment and abolition of these posts and the application of new standardized vacancy rates.

Other staff costs

20.51 The estimated provision of $360,900, reflecting a growth of $253,900, would be required as follows: (a) $63,400 (including an increase of $40,000) for general temporary assistance to cover the replacement of staff on extended sick and maternity leave, as well as additional assistance during peak workload periods; (b) $110,300 (including an increase of $26,700) for overtime during peak periods of work; (c) $187,200 for contractual security services for the new building in Beirut. These resources were previously provided under general operating expenses.

Consultants and experts

20.52 The estimated requirements of $30,000 would cover the cost of medical expertise and legal services on a retainer basis.

Travel

20.53 The estimated requirements of $81,500, reflecting a growth of $7,000, would provide for travel of staff for consultations on administrative, personnel, budget and finance, procurement and security matters.

Contractual services

20.54 The estimated provision of $388,200, reflecting a decrease of $101,200, would be required as follows: (a) $102,000 for part-time language teachers; (b) $111,200 for external editing, printing, translation and binding of a number of publications; and (c) $175,000 for data-processing services. The decrease of $101,200 is the net result of increases for part-time language teachers ($49,700) and for external translation printing and binding ($7,300) and a decrease of $158,200 for data-processing services.

General operating expenses

20.55 The estimated provision of $3,787,400, reflecting a growth of $359,000, would be required as follows: (a) $1,770,800, for maintenance of premises, including maintenance supplies (maintenance level); (b) $925,500 for utilities (electricity, water, fuel, oil for boiler and stand-by generators); (c) $219,100 for rental and maintenance of furniture and office and data-processing equipment; (d) $733,200 for communications, including telephone, fax, postage and pouches (maintenance level); and (e) $138,800 for miscellaneous services to cover freight and related costs (clearance) and general insurance. The growth of $359,000 is the net result of increases for utilities ($500,000) and rental and maintenance of equipment ($50,000) and decreases for rental of equipment ($182,900) and for miscellaneous services ($8,100).

Hospitality

20.56 The estimated provision of $15,900 (at the maintenance level) would be required for official functions held in connection with the twentieth session of the Commission and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, the visits of high-level government officials and special events such as United Nations Day.

Supplies and materials

20.57 An estimated provision of $600,300 (at the maintenance level) would be required for office supplies, materials for data-processing and internal printing, and library books, subscriptions and supplies.

Furniture and equipment

20.58 An estimated provision of $865,900 (at the maintenance level) would be required for acquisition and replacement of data-processing, reproduction, transportation and communications equipment.